

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8173

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 37727

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SYMBOLIC SUPPORT TO ZIMBABWE
DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: STATE 302674

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SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION OF
KISSINGER-CROSLAND LETTER, WITH ENCLOSURES, TO
FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD ON DECEMBER 21, HE
SAID HE THOUGHT SUGGESTED ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND
WAS A WISE PROPOSAL AND RECALLED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 8
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD INDICATED TO SECRETARY

KISSINGER THAT GOF WOULD GIVE SYMBOLIC SUPPORT TO SUCH A PROPOSAL. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE HIS STAFF STUDY THE DOCUMENTS AND WOULD IN DUE COURSE BE SENDING A RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER. STRESSED HOWEVER THAT FRENCH SUPPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE SYMBOLIC AND THAT CONTRIBUTION IN THE RANGE OF \$100 TO \$150 MILLION WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 21 I DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD THE SECRETARY'S AND FOREIGN MINISTER CROSLAND'S JOINT LETTER OF DECEMBER 11 PROPOSING THE CREATION OF A ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND. I EXPLAINED EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN EFFORT BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RHODESIA SO AS TO AVOID ECONOMIC CHAOS. NOTED THAT USG PROPOSED TO CONTRIBUTE FORTY PERCENT AND UK FIFTEEN PERCENT OF FUND WHICH MIGHT BE ON ORDER \$1 BILLION TO SLIGHTLY LESS THAN \$1.5 BILLION, THAT WE WERE SUGGESTING TEN PERCENT CONTRIBUTION FOR GOF, AND THAT THESE CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE OVER FIVE YEAR PERIOD, WITH DISBURSEMENTS PROBABLY EXTENDING OVER LONGER PERIOD. STRESSED THAT WE WERE MAKING THESE APPROACHES IN VERY LOW KEY, SIMPLY INDICATING TO PRESS THAT WE WERE IN PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH POTENTIAL DONORS WITHOUT IDENTIFYING SUCH DONORS OR DISCUSSING ANY DETAILS OF PROPOSAL, AND THAT WE HOPED FRANCE COULD COOPERATE IN COORDINATION OF STATEMENT TO THE PRESS. SAID WE

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WERE PREPARED TO DISMISS AS COMPLETELY FALSE ANY REPORTS THAT FUND IS INTENDED TO BUY WHITE

SETTLERS AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS TO BE TRUE DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR PURPOSE OF AVOIDING CHAOS AND SUFFERING AND TO LAY BASIS FOR BALANCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE.

2. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THEY WERE AWARE OF THIS PROPOSAL AND RECALLED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 8 PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD SAID TO SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED GIVE SYMBOLIC SUPPORT TO SUCH A PROPOSAL. HE NOTED THAT GOF ALREADY INVOLVED IN SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND FOR AFRICA AND IN POOR POSITION TO MAKE FURTHER DEMANDS ON ITS OWN LIMITED RESOURCES. SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT APPROACHES BEING MADE TO VARIOUS EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES, AND THAT ANY CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON ACCEPTANCE BY

RHODESIAN GOVERNMENTS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR
SUCH OBLIGATIONS. WHILE HE COULD NOT GIVE AN
IMMEDIATE FIRM RESPONSE, HE WAS VERY MUCH AWARE THAT
HIS PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY SAID FRANCE WOULD GIVE ITS
SYMBOLIC SUPPORT AND HE WOULD ASK HIS STAFF TO
STUDY DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY IN ORDER THAT HE COULD
MAKE APPROPRIATE REPLY TO MESSRS. KISSINGER AND
CROSLAND.

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 37727; #PARA. 1. AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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3. I POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSED US SHARE OF FORTY PERCENT CORRESPONDS TO WHAT WAS BEING PROPOSED FOR GISCARD FUND FOR AFRICA, WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH US AND TO WHICH WE HAD GIVEN PRELIMINARY POSITIVE RESPONSE. I RECALLED THAT ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD POINTED OUT TO

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SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT WEST, AND USG IN PARTICULAR, HAD BEEN NEGLECTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THAT IN AFRICA USG AND UK SHOULD CONSIDER DEVOTING MORE ATTENTION TO ASSISTING IN THE SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEMS AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, JUST AS FRANCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING MORE ATTENTION TO ITS FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES. WE HAD IN EFFECT ACCEPTED GISCARD'S ADVICE AND ADOPTED HIS SUGGESTION.

4. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID IF APPROACHED BY PRESS HE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THERE HAD BEEN FRANCO-US CONSULTATIONS ON SUGGESTED FUND AND FOLLOW OUR SUGGESTION RE COORDINATION OF PRESS STATEMENTS.

5. HE ADDED THAT SUCH A FUND WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION TO SUPPORT, IF THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION WERE TO BE SUBSTANTIAL, BECAUSE OF GOF TREATMENT OF FORMER FRENCH SETTLERS IN AFRICA. HE SAID THERE ARE STILL SOME TWO TO THREE THOUSAND FRENCH SETTLERS IN MADAGASCAR, WHO ARE IN FINANCIAL NEED BUT WHO ARE RECEIVING NO RPT NO ASSISTANCE FROM GOF. THEREFORE, GOF MUST BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT GIVING AID TO SETTLERS IN RHODESIA OF A SORT WHICH HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN BY GOF TO FRENCH SETTLERS. OUR OWN PAST PREVENTS OUR PARTICIPATION, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO HOPE OF APPROVAL BY THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT OF A FRENCH CONTRIBUTION ON THE ORDER OF \$100 TO \$150 MILLION.

6. I EXPLAINED THAT THE FUND WE HAVE IN MIND WOULD BE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES IN THE AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL SECTORS FOR THE CREATION OF A VIABLE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY IN ZIMBABWE AND NOT RPT NOT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF WHITE SETTLERS. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID FRENCH HAD UNDERSTOOD THIS FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT MONEY WOULD DOUBTLESS BE USED BY ZIMBABWE

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GOVERNMENT IN PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE WHITE SETTLERS

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TO REMAIN IN MANAGERIAL CAPACITY, ETC., AND THIS IS
SOMETHING GOF NEVER DID IN ITS FORMER COLONIES.
HE SAID THAT HAD GOF TAKEN SUCH ACTION IN ALGERIA,
MANY FRENCH MANAGERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE STAYED.

7. I SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL AS THE PRESENT
ONE MIGHT HAVE MADE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN ANGOLA

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AND MOZAMBIQUE, FOR EXAMPLE. DE GUIRINGAUD AGREED THAT IT WAS A WISE PROPOSAL.

8. ON PROSPECTIVE FINANCIAL BURDEN, I OBSERVED THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT CONTRIBUTIONS STARTING AT SOME LATER DATE AND SPREAD OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS OR MORE, AND THAT WHILE AT THE MOMENT WE WERE ALL, TO VARYING DEGREES, EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE TREND SEEMED UPWARD AND I HAD GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF FRANCE AND THE CAPABILITIES OF ITS LEADERS. THE FIRST CONTRIBUTION WOULD IN ANY CASE NOT BE MADE UNTIL CONSIDERABLY LATER WHEN ONE MIGHT PROPERLY ASSUME THAT ALL OF OUR ECONOMIES WOULD BE STRONGER. WE WERE NOT ASKING FOR QUICK ACTION BUT HOPED THAT WE COULD LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS, AND CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE, ONCE THE GOF HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE DOCUMENTATION.

9. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD VERY WELL THE POINT I WAS MAKING AND INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT THAT THE DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CONTINUED. HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER CROSLAND IN DUE COURSE.
RUSH

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